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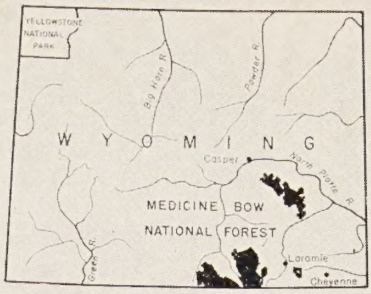


F-401143

Forest boundary entrance on French Creek Trail, below Albany.

Medicine Bow NATIONAL FOREST •

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE • ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

US

F—249306

Forest fires destroy timber, wildlife, watersheds, and scenic values. Many fires are man-caused and are avoidable. Help prevent forest fires and avoid this unnecessary waste.

Fire Prevention Rules

1. MATCHES.—Be sure your MATCH IS OUT. Break it in two before you throw it away.

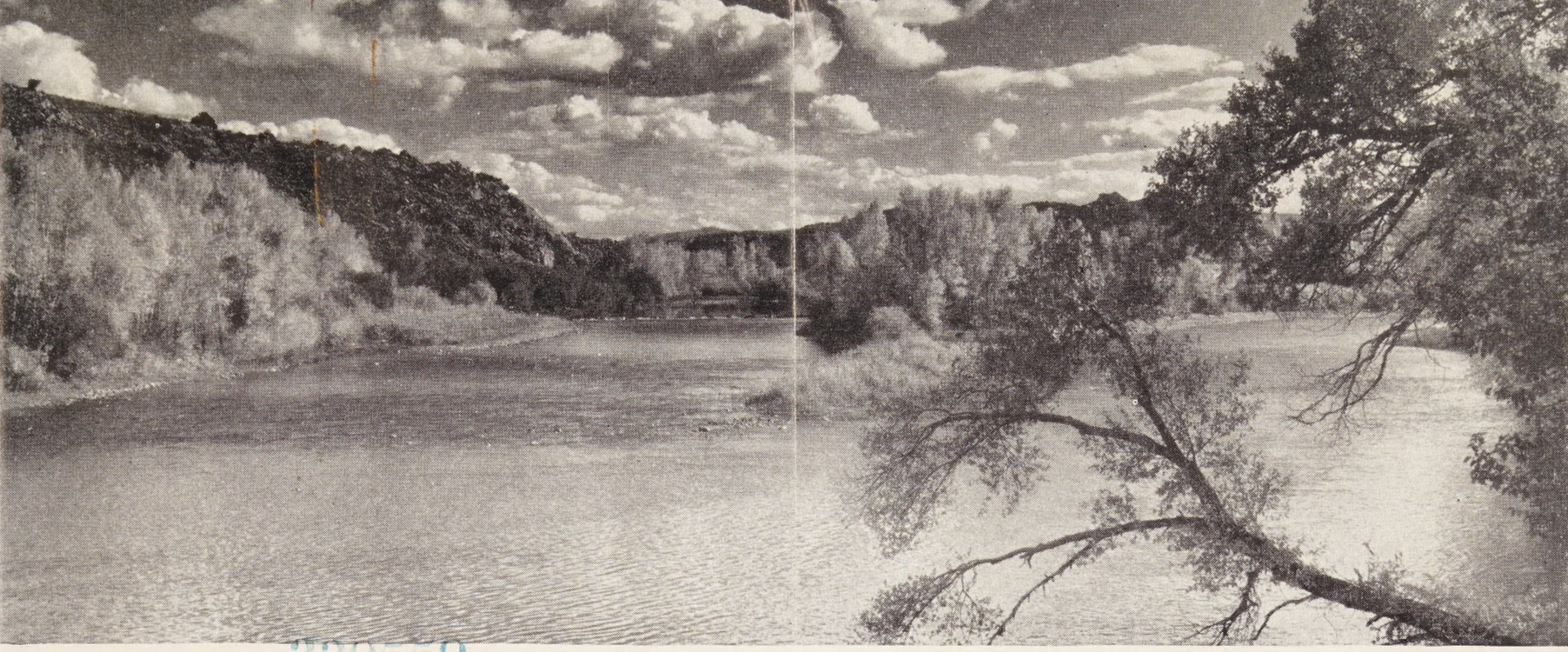
2. SMOKING.—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are DEAD before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles. When in the woods smoke only in places of habitation, at improved campgrounds, or at carefully selected rest and camp sites—never while TRAVELING.

3. MAKING CAMP.—Use fire grates at improved campgrounds and observe the rules for building and extinguishing fires. Before building a camp fire at places where no grates are available, scrape away all inflammable material from a place about 4 feet in diameter. Keep your fire SMALL. Never build it against trees or logs, or near brush.

4. BREAKING CAMP.—Never break camp until your fire is out, DEAD out. Stir the coals while soaking them with water, turn burned sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire and be sure the last spark is dead.

5. BONFIRES.—Never build bonfires or burn slash or brush in WINDY weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.

6. AUTOMOBILES.—Always use your ash tray when in an automobile. Don't be a flipper.



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F—401156

A scene on the North Platte River above Saratoga, an answer to a photographer's dream and a fisherman's paradise.

THE MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST is located in southeastern Wyoming, and contains four divisions; namely, the Medicine Bow, Hayden, Pole Mountain, and Laramie Peak. Its gross area is 1,398,288 acres, of which 338,911 acres are private-, municipal-, or State-owned. The Hayden Division lies west of the North Platte River, and the other three divisions lie within a large three-quarter circle formed by that river.

Medicine Bow Division.

The area within this division is approximately the same as that of the original Medicine Bow National Forest, created by President Roosevelt May 22, 1902, and includes about two-fifths of the total area of the present forest. It lies along the Medicine Bow Range, locally called the Snowy Range, and extends from the Colorado-Wyoming boundary northward to where the dense stands of timber and open grass and sagebrush growth begin. The rugged slopes of this range are covered with a dense stand of lodgepole pine timber, so named because the Indians found these trees slender and trim of form, especially well suited for erecting tepees and lodges, Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, alpine fir, limber pine, cottonwood, and quaking aspen also grow on these slopes.

Throughout this division are many streams. At the higher elevations of the Medicine Bow Range are more than a hundred lakes, the result of glacial action, which range in size from small potholes to a hundred acres in extent. The larger lakes contain various species of trout. Large snowbanks persist nearby throughout the summer and form interesting and diverse conditions for the recreationist.

B. E. S. JAN 21 1942

Hayden Division.

The Hayden Division was formerly the Hayden National Forest, established November 5, 1906, as the Sierra Madre, but renamed on July 1, 1908, for Dr. F. V. Hayden, the noted geologist. It was added to the Medicine Bow National Forest on June 1, 1929. About one-quarter of the total acreage of the forest is included within this division, which extends along the Sierra Madre Range, or Continental Divide, from the Colorado-Wyoming boundary line north to approximately the point where tree growth ceases.

The waters of the west side of the division drain into the Little Snake River, which flows into the Green River; those of the east side drain into the North Platte River. On the eastern slope are extensive stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce. The western part is largely covered with quaking aspen and brush, the result in part, of old forest fires.

Pole Mountain Division.

For many years the Pole Mountain Division, comprising a gross area of 52,819 acres, was designated a War Department target and maneuver reservation. The national forest was superimposed upon this area which is now under the joint jurisdiction of the War Department and the Department of Agriculture. From time to time the War Department uses a portion of the division for maneuvers and artillery practice.

The area is generally rolling and surrounds a comparatively low rugged mountain for which it has been named. The forests are mainly open in character. In the pioneer days the ponderosa pine was heavily cut over

National Forests provide living for almost a million people and recreation for 30 million or more each year. Under provisions that assure continuity of the forest stand, approximately 1½ billion board feet of timber are harvested from them annually. The national forests serve as a home for most of our Western big-game animals. They furnish forage for 11,000,000 domestic animals and their young. They are the source of domestic water supply for 6,000,000 city dwellers.

A Forest of Many Uses • Timber Production, Forage for Livestock and Game, Watershed Protection, Recreation

THE MEDICINE BOW, as one of the outstanding national forests, exemplifies the purposes for which the forests were established; namely, (1) the protection of watersheds, and (2) the sustained production and use of forests and forest products. Briefly, the primary purposes of management of the national forests are: (1) The maintenance of an adequate growth of trees and other vegetation on watersheds, in order to aid in preventing floods and erosion, maintaining water levels and regularity of streamflow, and preserving waterpower resources and the purity of streams supplying water for domestic use in towns and cities. (2) To provide protection against forest fires, insects, disease, and other destructive agents. (3) To contribute to the maintenance of a permanent timber supply to meet the needs of dependent communities, regions, and the whole country. (4) To serve as demonstration areas of both large- and small-scale forest management for timber owners and operators, including farmers. (5) To secure a sustained supply of forage on forest lands for the grazing of game and domestic stock. (6) To preserve the beauty and attractiveness of the forests for the recreation and pleasure of the people. (7) To assist in the broad social program of building a more stable and prosperous nation.

National forests are managed for the sustained production of a variety of products which in one way or another may be harvested. For instance, ripe timber is sold for cutting under practices which insure sustained production, domestic stock is permitted to graze up to the permanent forage-producing capacity of the land, water is used in many ways—for irrigation, power, domestic supplies, industrial uses, and recreation—game and fish are taken under suitable limitations, and recreation in many other forms is enjoyed by millions of people.

Under Forest Service administration, the objective has been to handle the national forests for the greatest good of the greatest number of people for all time. Under the multiple-use system of management which is followed, the objective is to use the national forests for all possible purposes. This does not mean that every acre is employed for a half dozen purposes, but over a watershed or a ranger district, or a forest unit, one may find domestic stock and big-game animals grazing, timber sales in operation, the mining of precious metals, recreational use by the masses; and, if good judgment has been exercised, the forest is even more valuable for watershed protection than a virgin area.

RECREATION

Public recreation is definitely recognized and treated as a forest resource on the Medicine Bow and takes its place in development and management plans. Opportunities for outdoor recreation cover practically the entire field of American forest sports. These are inexpensive, informal, and open to the enjoyment of everyone. Picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain climbing, skiing, skating, and motoring are common activities on this forest. Pioneer days may be relived on pack trips through many of the undeveloped areas of the Medicine Bow and Hayden Divisions. Winter sports enthusiasts may find the Medicine Bow snow trails among the most exciting.

Scenically and climatically the Medicine Bow is widely diversified, ranging from the vast Laramie plains, the Platte River valley, and the Red Desert, to the alpine meadows and land of perpetual snow in the upper limits of the Medicine Bow Range. Days are warm and sunny in the summer, and the nights cool or cold; autumn seasons are colorful and invigorating; the winters cold.

Camp and picnic grounds.

Camp and picnic grounds are located in attractive surroundings—in dense timber stands, along sparkling streams, in rocky glens, and in high mountains where alpine flowers bloom at the edge of perpetual snowbanks. Many of the picnic areas, well-screened by natural growth, are within a stone's throw of highways and roads; others may be reached only by traveling the more intimate forest roads.

Elsewhere in this folder are explicit directions on how to reach any of the 32 developed camp or picnic grounds, with their free facilities—tables, benches, fire grates, latrines, garbage receptacles, bulletin boards, wells or springs, and parking areas. Camping supplies and equipment should be purchased before entering the forest. Several resorts furnish meals and lodging and provide accommodations for horseback and pack trips. The Medicine Bow campgrounds are so popular that it is necessary to limit the length of stay of each party on an individual campground to 15 days.

Hunting and fishing.

Wildlife is a major forest resource. It is managed jointly on a sustained-yield basis with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The forest affords extensive range for important species of big game, including about 16,000 Rocky Mountain mule deer, 800 elk, and 320 brown bear, with a few antelope in several localities. Under management and protection for 30 years, the deer and elk have increased to such an extent that 1,500 hunters bag their big game annually on the forest. Beaver, important as water conservators, are found on practically all watersheds and the population of each area is kept constant within the limits of the food supply. Coyotes are numerous, and bobcats, weasels, foxes, muskrats, pine martens, mink, skunks, badgers, and rabbits, with an occasional lynx and mountain lion, are found on the forest.

Observation Points

37. *Dry Park observation point.* Thirty-seven and one-half miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230, Woods Landing and Foxpark roads. Excellent view to north overlooking Centennial Valley and Laramie plains. Laramie Mountains and Laramie Peak may be seen in distance.

38. *Libby Flats observation point.* Forty-two and one-half miles west of Laramie, 34 miles southeast Saratoga, via State Highway 130. Unusual views of nearby Medicine Bow Peak. Mountain ranges to south in Colorado to a distance of 100 miles may be seen on a clear day. Outstanding for its wide panoramic views.

39. *Battle observation point.* On Encampment-Slater road. 27 miles west of Encampment, 12 miles northeast of Slater. Excellent views to south. Vast mountain ranges in Colorado. Striking beauty of coloring in autumn.

Snowy Range Natural Area

40. A tract of 771 acres, supporting a virgin stand of Engelmann spruce. Accessible via State Highway 130. Thirty-eight and one-half miles west of Laramie. This area was set aside for research studies relating to soil structure and chemical composition, geology, botany, and forest ecology. The area is closed to domestic stock grazing, timber cutting, or other resource utilization which might affect the natural vegetative cover or timber growth. The University of Wyoming science camp is adjacent.

Wild turkeys, introduced in the Laramie Peak Division in 1934, are increasing in numbers and spreading over a larger range. Game birds include the dusky or blue grouse and sage grouse. Wild ducks, principally mallards, are annually extending their use of beaver ponds for nesting.

The 100 lakes and 70 streams support brook, rainbow, and Loch Leven trout. These waters are stocked annually with trout from State and Federal hatcheries. Information regarding open seasons and license fees can be obtained from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Cheyenne, Wyo., or from local game wardens and Forest Service officials. The commission issues a special low cost, short-term fishing license to out-of-State visitors.

Winter sports.

For years the winter status of the Medicine Bow National Forest was one of snowbound isolation. But no longer! The great snowfields now attract thousands of skiers. At the improved winter sports areas of Summit, Snowy Range, and Barrett Ridge snow conditions are ideal and the skiing season runs from December through April. These ski lands are within a few hours' drive over first-class highways from the population centers of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska. Privately operated ski tows are available, and shelters are provided and refreshments served. There are slalom runs and ski trails for both the beginner and the expert skier.

Other pastimes.

Mountain climbing is perhaps the most strenuous and most facinating and, oftentimes, the most dangerous outdoor sport. Medicine Bow (12,005 feet), Laramie, Eagle, and many other peaks on this forest are rugged and sheer enough to tempt even expert climbers. The Medicine Bow offers the camera hunter unlimited opportunities to photograph scenic views, wildlife, and colorful flowers, and the naturalist a fertile field for study.

The botanist has a range from the grass-covered Laramie plains to the rare flowers of the alpine meadows of the Snowy Range and Hayden Divisions. For the amateur mineralogist and prospector, the Snowy Range region furnishes an almost limitless field of exploration. According to authorities, Medicine Bow Peak itself presents a million years of geological history.

TIMBER FOR LOCAL USE

The region included in the Medicine Bow National Forest has supplied almost a billion board feet of timber products since settlement began in southeastern Wyoming. Early Army posts and Pony Express stations were materially benefited by timber from the forest area. Pioneer settlers used large quantities of wood for houses, fuel, and other purposes, and from an early date timber operators have taken a heavy toll for commercial uses.

The Union Pacific Railroad used millions of railroad ties as the line was extended westward across the Laramie Mountains in 1868, and its utilization of timber has been continuous since that date. Altogether, the timber used prior to 1902 is placed at 320,000,000 board feet.

Since the establishment of the forest, 651,000,000 board feet have been cut, largely as lumber and railroad ties, with minor quantities of telephone poles, fence posts and poles, and cordwood. The stumpage value of timber products cut to date approximates $2,427,000, and the quantity is a good example of the crop that can be harvested from a national forest in the Rocky Mountains, where timber does not grow to sizes attained in the regions farther west.

The present timber stands are inventoried at 3,085,307,000 board feet, 80 percent of which is lodgepole pine. Annually the creosoting plant at Laramie treats almost a million ties and large quantities of other timber products cut from this forest and the Roosevelt and Routt Forests in Colorado. The business turnover of this plant is about $1,000,000 annually. The annual timber cut on the Medicine Bow National Forest averages about 27,000,000 board feet, and forest growth is reckoned at about three times the amount cut. With adequate protection, the timber should continue to supply local markets indefinitely.

FORAGE FOR LIVESTOCK AND GAME

Stock-raising in and near the Medicine Bow is an important industry. Lying near the great Red Desert and innumerable stock ranches, the ranges of the forest are in great demand and annually many local residents reap the benefit of the forage crop. Stockmen, under permits issued by the Forest Service, graze 15,000 cattle and 91,000 sheep each year, raising sufficient forage crops on ranches to feed their stock through the winter. Oftentimes the summer pasture is just the additional feed needed to make successful business ventures out of otherwise unprofitable ranching.

Grasses and weeds, as well as shrubs and trees, are necessary aids to the conservation of soils. In its management of forest ranges, it is the Forest Service objective to protect and maintain the vegetative cover required to regulate the run-off from rain and melting snow and to harvest only the surplus as a forage crop. This plan provides protection against erosion and at the same time meets a great economic need.

Range-management plans on the forests make provision for game herds, as well as domestic stock, and on the Medicine Bow the joint cooperation of the livestock associations, the Game and Fish Commission, and the Forest Service has resulted in an unusual degree of stability in stock raising and dependable control of increasing herds of deer and elk.

FIRES THAT DESTROY

Over a period of 32 years, since Forest Service records have been kept, 713 fires have burned on and adjacent to the forest. These fires have destroyed 5,297 acres of timber and vegetative cover on land within the forest, an average of 165 acres annually. Sixty percent of this loss occurred in 1915 and in 1930.

During recent years, five new lookout stations have been constructed and an improved fire-detection system has been developed. This will speed up action on fires as they occur and should greatly reduce the annual fire loss. The primary lookout stations of this new system are Spruce Mountain, Jelm Mountain, and Kennaday Peak, on the Medicine Bow Division; Blackhall Mountain, on the Hayden Division; and Esterbrook Hill, on the Laramie Peak Division. Each of these lookout points gives a splendid view of the surrounding country, and the observer is glad to welcome visitors and explain the Forest Service method of detecting fires. Spruce Mountain and Esterbrook Hill lookouts can be reached by road. Several secondary stations will be manned at times when the fire danger is critical.

More than 80 percent of all fires have been man-caused. While decreases in acreage burned will result from better detection, decreases in the number of fires can only result from better cooperation by forest users. Everyone who visits or works in the forests should be careful to follow the rules given in this folder.

During The Past

2 years, the Forest Service has spent more than 9,000 man-days annually searching for persons lost, injured, or killed. Most of those who become lost stray off the posted forest roads and trails, or enter undeveloped areas without guides or proper maps. Injuries and deaths in many instances result from inexperience in coping with woods hazards and lack of proper equipment.

F–382481

Part of the Medicine Bow timber crop. This forest supports a stand of 3,085,307,000 board feet in trees 10 inches and over in diameter. The timber protects the large watersheds and affords cover for the abundant wildlife.

F–382474

Portable sawmills are used to manufacture products from the Medicine Bow's annual timber crop of 27 million feet, board measure. Only mature timber is harvested and the yearly harvest does not exceed the annual growth.

F–382472

A recreationist making good use of a family-size grate at the Lake Marie picnic ground. A permanent snow bank and interesting geological formations are added attractions at this picnic ground.

BELOW.—*The Medicine Bow has 70 fishing streams and over 100 fishing lakes. The principal species of fish are brook, rainbow, and Loch Leven trout. Fishing is best during June, July, and August.*

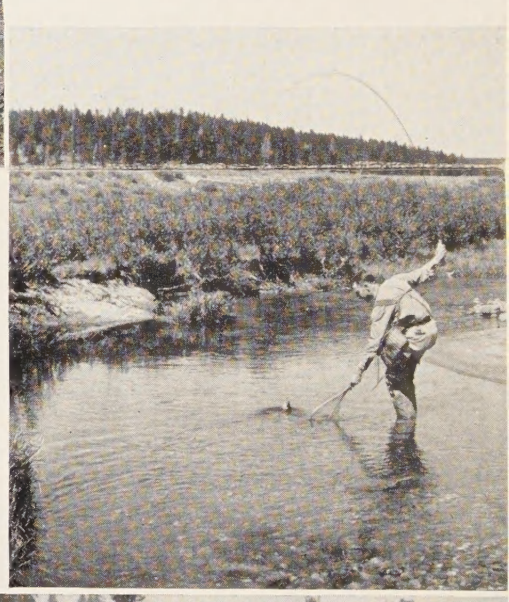
F–382528

F–401162

A formerly overcrowded timber stand thinned by CCC during 1934. Pole stands thus thinned grow three times faster than before thinning. Thinning also opens the forest canopy which permits more precipitation to reach the forest floor. Thinning also reduces loss of soil moisture through transpiration.

LEFT.—*Five fire lookout stations are manned throughout the summer season. The objective is to detect and report fires to the suppression crews as soon as possible after the fires start.*

F–382476

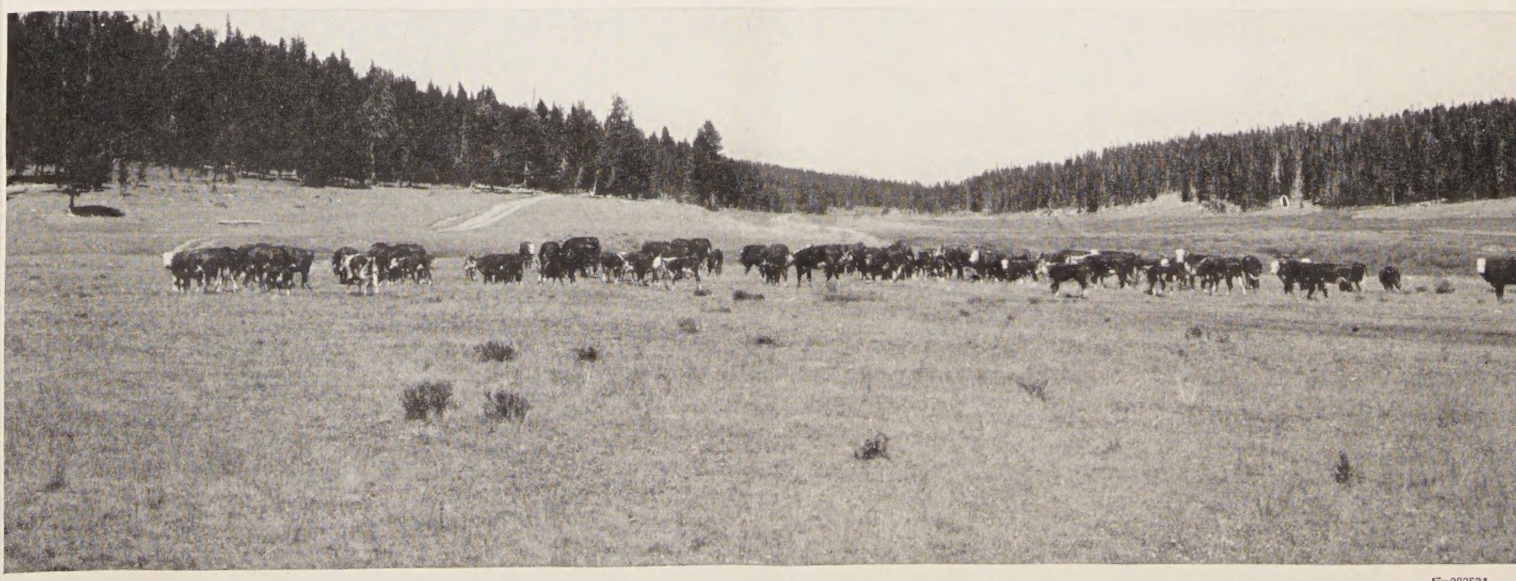


F–382484

Beaver dams retard run-off, build soil, help stabilize streamflow, and maintain a higher water table.

F–376873

Three well improved ski areas on the Medicine Bow National Forest are used by thousands of ski fans each winter. The average winter sports season is from December to April.



F–382531

Cattle grazing on the Medicine Bow National Forest. About 15,000 cattle are grazed on the forest each season.

F—382482

The Medicine Bow Forest has 300 miles of improved highways and motor roads which afford scenic attractions, utility, and motoring pleasure to many thousands of users annually.

and burned. The lodgepole pine is immature, the old timber having been destroyed by fires. Quaking aspen is found in numerous groves and immature Douglas-fir on cool north slopes.

Along Middle Crow Creek fantastic rock formations create a weird landscape in a narrow strip through this unit and manifestly justify the frequent allusions to "His Satanic Majesty" in local names. Here are the Devil's Playground, Turtle Rock, and Vedauwoo Glen, a natural two-stage theater in the solid granite. The Happy Jack, Vedauwoo, and Telephone Roads, extending from U S 30, make the entire area easily accessible by motor travel from both Cheyenne and Laramie. The area is used intensively by picnickers from Cheyenne, Laramie, eastern Nebraska, and northern Colorado. Picnicking is free to the public, and developed picnic grounds are located on Pole and Crow Creeks and at other suitable locations.

Neither hunting nor fishing is permitted because the area is a Federal refuge.

Laramie Peak Division.

The Laramie Peak Division comprises about three-tenths of the forest, and was created by executive order of August 20, 1935. It is located in the Laramie Mountains, which are a part of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, rising from the Great Plains Region of Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. The rugged and rocky slopes of this range are bordered by open grass and sagebrush lands on all sides. Many of the slopes are covered with stands of ponderosa and limber pine, and alpine Douglas-fir. Beautiful mountain parks and deep valleys lie between the rugged breaks of this range. The Division is characterized by its attractive granitic formations, high, rocky, sharp peaks, and high, narrow ridges, covered with large boulders.

THE FOREST NAME

The origin of "Medicine Bow" is legendary. The generally accepted version is that Indian tribes which inhabited southeastern Wyoming found in one of the mountain valleys mountain mahogany, from which bows of exceptional quality could be made, and it became the custom of friendly tribes to assemble there annually and construct their weapons. At these assemblies there were ceremonial powwows for the cure of disease, which in the hybrid speech that developed between the Indians and the early whites,

was known as making-medicine. Eventually the whites associated in thought the terms "making-medicine" and "making-bows," and Medicine Bow resulted as a name for the locality. Subsequently, it was attached to the stream and the mountains, and still later the name of Medicine Bow gained world-wide renown through Owen Wister's novel, "The Virginian." On creation of the forest which embraced the Medicine Bow Range, quite naturally the euphonious but mythical name was again used.

IN THE EARLY DAYS

The area now included within the Medicine Bow National Forest was first visited by trappers as early as 1810, when Ezekiel Williams and party worked southward from Montana through the mountains of Wyoming toward the Arkansas River in Colorado. Jacques de la Ramie, another trapper, visited the region 10 years later, but met death at the hands of Indians whom he had previously befriended. From that early trapper and explorer comes the name "Laramie," attached to many geographic features in Wyoming.

Nothing was generally known of the region, however, until the second expedition of Capt. John C. Fremont, in 1843–44. His wagon train followed in general the route of the Overland Trail, from Colorado to the Laramie River, where it waited while Fremont and a few companions explored the Cache la Poudre and Laramie River drainages in Colorado. They came down the Laramie into Wyoming, and the whole expedition continued westward around the Medicine Bow Range. Fremont in his report made many references to the beautiful flora of this range, and spoke of the pleasure of his men when Kit Carson brought in the carcass of an antelope. Following this expedition to Oregon and California and the discovery of gold in California, in 1849, many immigrants passed through the region.

OF GEOLOGIC INTEREST

Originally the earth's crust in the region including the Medicine Bow National Forest was composed of various formations of granite and schists, making up the Basement Complex. Topographically, the region was a part of a great flat plain. During approximately 500 million years, many geologic changes took place upon this Complex. First great seas of water

Ask the Forest Officers

The Medicine Bow National Forest is divided into nine districts, each of which is administered by a ranger, under the general direction of the forest supervisor. These men are busy with grazing management, timber sales, and other duties affecting the resources of their district and are absent from their stations during much of the field season. For this reason, it is best to make appointments for business conferences. Information may be secured from any of these forest officers, at the addresses given below:

Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service,
Laramie, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Pole Mountain District . Laramie, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Centennial District . Centennial, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Brush Creek District,
Ryan Park, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Foxpark District . . Foxpark, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Keystone District . . Holmes, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Encampment District,
Encampment, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, Snake River District . Savery, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, La Bonte District . Esterbrook, Wyo.
Forest Ranger, La Prele District . . Douglas, Wyo.

covered the area, depositing various kinds of sediment composed of sandstones and limestones, to a depth of 25,000 feet. Later, enormous pressure forces caused bulging and folding of the various strata. This formed new valleys and mountain ranges. Again, a great interior force caused a portion of the region to settle some 10,000 feet, resulting in a break or "fault" in the stratum in the region now known as Sheep Mountain. Next the region was eroded by various weathering agencies and streams and rivers carried great amounts of material from the mountains, depositing it to a depth of 20,000 feet.

Great stresses once more caused much folding of the earth's crust and increased further the complexity of the topography. Thus the Medicine Bow, Sierra Madre, and other mountain ranges were formed. Erosion again cut these mountain ranges into deep canyons. Then came the age when the region was covered to various depths with ice and snow. Glaciers were formed which scooped out deep basins and valleys, and were responsible for the formation of the many lakes in the Snowy Range region. This glacial action took place about 35,000 years ago, and extensive natural erosion over most of the area has since been continuous.

HIGHWAYS, ROADS, TRAILS

Existing highways and roads make the Medicine Bow one of the most accessible forests in Wyoming. U S 30 crosses Sherman Hill in the Pole Mountain Division, at 8,835 feet, the highest elevation on the entire route. It then extends north and west, around the northern extremities of the Medicine Bow and Hayden Divisions. U S 20 passes to the east and north of the Laramie Peak Division. State Highways 26, 130, 230, and 330 traverse or pass near the forest areas, and all except 130 are kept open year long. In winter, Highway 130 is kept open only to the Snowy Range and Barrett Ridge winter sports areas.

Many forest roads connect with the main highways. These were constructed primarily for the purpose of forest-fire protection and resource development, utilization, and administration. In general, they are narrower, steeper, more winding, and necessarily slower than the surfaced highways familiar to the average motorist. If traveled at reasonable speeds and with caution, they are safe.

Forest Health Rules

1. PURIFICATION.—Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water.

2. GARBAGE.—Burn all paper, old clothing, or rubbish. Bury or place in pits or receptacles provided, all garbage, tin cans, bottles, and other refuse.

3. WASHING.—Do not wash soiled clothing or utensils or bathe in springs, streams, or lakes. Use a container and throw dirty water where it cannot get into the water supply without first filtering through the ground.

4. SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.—Use public toilets if they are available. Where not provided, bury one foot deep all human excrement, at least 200 feet from water.

5. OBEYING LAWS.—Observe the rules of sanitation and protect yourself and others. Report all insanitary conditions to the nearest health or forest officer.

F—259134

Foot and horse trails make accessible the many fishing streams and lakes. These trails are also used for fire protection, handling of livestock, and general administration.

Of the 300 miles of highways and roads on the forest, hardly a mile is without some scenic value. In constructing roads, special effort is made to preserve the natural forest and vegetative conditions and other scenic attractions along the roadside. This policy is also followed along the 1,030 miles of trails on the forest, and vacationists can find more primitive conditions by following some of the high trails on foot or by horse into the wilderness. National-forest roads, trails, campgrounds, and other points of interest are marked with informational and directional signs. However, visitors are invited to stop at the nearest forest supervisor, ranger, or guard headquarters for first-hand information and local maps. A chat with the ranger will often save confusion, time, and occasionally serious trouble.

Winter Sports Areas

33. *Summit winter sports area.* Eleven miles southeast of Laramie, 40 miles northwest of Cheyenne, on U S 30. Forty-acre developed area, 850 feet gasoline motor-powered rope tow, large parking area, lodge. Normal season of use December 1 to March 1. Excellent for beginners and practice skiing. Elevation 8,835 feet.

34. *Libby Creek ski area.* Thirty-five miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 130. Portable tow part way up slope, professional slopes and slalom runs. Elevation 9,000 to 9,600.

35. *Snowy Range winter sports area.* Thirty-six miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 130. Large developed area. 1,000 feet gasoline motor-powered rope tow. Excellent for beginners and experienced skiers. Shelter cabin, ample parking space. Site of 1939 Wyoming State Meet. Elevation 9,500. Average season of use December 1 to March 31.

36. *Barrett Ridge winter sports area.* Twenty miles east of Saratoga— via State Highway 130. Slopes for all classes of skiers, 1,200-foot sled-type gasoline motor-powered tow, professional and amateur jumps, shelter cabin, ample parking area. Elevation 8,100 feet. Site of 1940 Wyoming State Meet. Average season of use December 1 to March 31.

Trees of the Medicine Bow . . . .

CONIFERS

Eight common evergreen (coniferous) trees and shrubs, belonging to five genera—the pines, spruces, true firs, Douglas-fir, and junipers—occur on the Medicine Bow National Forest.

PINES.—Three species. The pines on the forest always have long, needle-shaped leaves in clusters of from 2 to 5 and never singly. The cones are woody and pendent.

LODGEPOLE PINE (*Pinus contorta*).—The common pine of the high mountains. Leaves 1½ to 2 inches long, light green, always 2 in a cluster. Cones one-sided, contracted next to the limb of the tree, found on all parts of the branches. Cone scales armed with short spines.

PONDEROSA PINE (*Pinus ponderosa*).—Found at lower elevations. Leaves 3 to 5 inches long, deep green, 2 or 3 in a cluster, and in tufts at the ends of the branches. Cones 3 to 4 inches long, oval; usually found near end of branches. Cone scales armed with spines.

LIMBER PINE (*Pinus flexilis*).—Sometimes erroneously called piñon or nut pine. Grows in the foothills and also in rocky places in high mountains. Leaves dark green, always in clusters of five, 1½ to 3 inches long. Cones 3 to 6 inches long with seeds about ⅓ inch in length. Cone scales smooth. Bark light gray or silvery white, except on old trunks, which are blackish-brown and furrowed.

SPRUCES.—Two species. Both have short, sharp-pointed, 4-sided, single leaves, which easily roll between the fingers. Crowns have a whitish or bluish cast. Cones are not woody, but fibrous, and hang from the branches.

ENGELMANN SPRUCE (*Picea engelmannii*).—The small branches are covered with soft, short hairs. Leaves less rigid and less sharply pointed than those of blue spruce, dark, blue, green, or pale steel blue. Cones 1 to 2 inches long. Bark is dark, reddish-brown, and separates in the form of small rounded scales.

BLUE SPRUCE (*Picea pungens*).—The new growth branches are always smooth. Leaves stiff and with sharp points. The blue spruce can be told from Engelmann spruce by grasping the tip of a branch and noting the spine-like, stiff leaves. Cones 2 to 4 inches long. Bark on mature trunks gray and deeply furrowed.

FIR.—One species only.

ALPINE FIR (*Abies lasiocarpa*).—Flat leaves, 1 to 1¾ inches long, without any stem where they join branches. Cones stand erect upon branches, 2½ to 4 inches long, dark purple. In the fall the cones fall to pieces and leave only a spike on the branch. Grows at high altitudes usually in association with Engelmann spruce.

DOUGLAS-FIR (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*).—One species only (though similar in name, this species has no direct connection with the true fir). Flat leaves ¾ to 1½ inches long, with a short stem joining them to branches. Cones pendent on stout stems, 2 to 4 inches long, with 3-pronged bracts protruding from between the cone scales, persistent and fall off the tree whole.

JUNIPERS OR CEDARS.—Two species, one a small tree and the other a shrub. Seed in berries, not cones.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER (*Juniperus scopulorum*).—Scale-like pointed leaves, very small, that cover the slender 4-sided twigs in four rows of alternately opposite pairs, stiff branches. Mature berries ¼ inch in diameter, bluish or black, covered with a whitish bloom.

GROUND JUNIPER (*Juniperus communis*).—Always a shrub, 1 to 3 feet high. Leaves in groups of 3, separate on branches, sharp pointed. Branches not stiff.

BROADLEAF TREES

Broadleaf or deciduous trees or shrubs are not found to any general extent on the forest, with the exception of aspen, which is widely distributed. Many species occur as shrubs or small trees.

ASPEN (*Populus tremuloides*).—Flat, nearly heart-shaped leaves about 2 inches across, that tremble characteristically in a breeze. Bark whitish or very pale green, smooth, with black scars where branches have dropped off. Trees rarely more than 50 feet high. (Commonly called quaking aspen, or quaking asp, locally.)

NARROWLEAF COTTONWOOD (*Populus angustifolia*).—Usually a tall tree, 40 to 60 feet high. Bark dark-gray, heavily ridged half or two-thirds of the way up the tree; above that, smooth, pale green. Leaves ¼ to ½ inch wide by 2 to 3 inches long, very similar to willow leaves. Usually found at lower elevations along streams.

Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*).—Tree has large very resinous buds. Leaves shiny above and whitish beneath. Bark comparatively smooth but somewhat roughened on old trees, darker than cottonwood. Trees usually 15 to 30 feet high, ordinarily occurring in sheltered places along streams, scattered or in small groups. (Commonly called balm of Gilead, locally.)

Birch (*Betula fontinalis*).—Outer bark usually separable in sheets; that of the branchlets dotted. Ranges in size from a tree-like shrub to a small tree. Usually slender and freely branched branchlets, gracefully drooping; leaves thin, broadly ovate, with small gland-tipped teeth, smooth above, lightly pubescent beneath; wings of the nutlet as broad as the body.

Alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*).—Found along and overhanging the streams, usually in clumps, several trees growing from the same root, frequently 4 to 8 inches in diameter, and 15 to 25 feet high. Leaves large and sharply double toothed. Mature seed-bearing fruit noticeable in winter.

Boxelder (*Acer negundo*).—Leaves compound, 3 to 5 on a single stalk. Tree low and freely branched, 25 to 40 feet high and up to 12 inches in diameter, has drooping clusters of greenish flowers. Seed is paired and winged.

Rocky Mountain Maple (*Acer glabrum*).—Usually a shrub, but frequently 20 to 30 feet high. Has paired opposite buds, sharply lobed leaves, light gray bark, and paired winged seed. Leaves 1 to 2 inches long, opposite each other.

Bebb Willow (*Salix bebbianna*).—Usually a shrub, but frequently reaches a diameter of 4 inches and a height of 15 to 25 feet. Buds are covered by a single scale, leaves narrow, and sharp pointed.

Pacific Serviceberry (*Amelanchier florida*).—Leaves silvery, sharply toothed toward the end, and alternate on branches. Trees, or more often shrubs, 6 to 15 feet high. Flowers white and in clusters. Five hard seeds in each berry. (Called serviceberry locally.)

Western Choke Cherry (*Prunus demissa*).—Clustered flowers and fruit. Alternate leaves, sharply pointed. Bark, leaves, and seed bitter. Fruit black. Tree, or more often a shrub, 3 to 15 feet high.

Oak (*Quercus gambelli*).—Usually a shrub, rarely over 25 feet high. Alternate leaves, smaller at the base than at the ends, with deep lobes, frequently drying on the tree and remaining over winter. Fruit, a short, small, pointed acorn.

National Forest Visitors

can prevent public expense, forest waste, and loss of life by refraining from "flipping" lighted matches, cigarettes, cigar stubs, and pipe heels out of car windows, or into the brush, while walking or riding through the woods. Campfires should be kept small. Before leaving campfires at unimproved campgrounds they should be thoroughly drenched with water. As a precaution, test the embers with the bare hands to be sure they are dead. One-fourth of all fires in the national forests are started by careless smokers—chiefly tourists, campers, fishermen, hunters, and prospectors. One-tenth of all fires are started by careless campers who build their campfires too large or leave them without being positive that all sparks are out.

F–382471

A community grate and 4–H group on one of the 32 improved camp and picnic grounds on the Medicine Bow National Forest. Thousands of recreationists as well as 4–H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other similar groups use these improved areas annually.

The Medicine Bow contributes to the support of Wyoming's chief livestock industry by providing summer grazing for about 91,000 sheep. Open herding prevents range damage and increases sheep weights.

F–402418

Camps and Picnic Grounds . . .

1. *Canyon picnic ground.* Nine miles southeast of Laramie, on U S 30. Several family units. Intermittent spring. Community grate.

2. *Happy Jack picnic grounds.* On Happy Jack highway, 1 mile east of U S 30, 11 miles southeast of Laramie. Numerous picnic units and community grates extending along Happy Jack road for a distance of 2 miles, Beaver dams, hiking, playfields, spring water.

3. *Wallis picnic ground.* Fifteen miles southeast of Laramie, via U S 30 and Pole Mountain Nursery road. Large developed area, well water, community grate, playfield.

4. *Blair picnic ground.* Sixteen miles southeast of Laramie, via U S 30 and Pole Mountain Nursery road. Large developed area, well water, two community grates, playfield.

5. *Summit comfort station.* Eleven miles east of Laramie. Highest point on Lincoln Highway, U S 30. Elevation 8,835 feet. Observation tower, excellent views of mountain ranges to south and west.

6. *Yedauwoo picnic ground.* Nineteen miles southeast of Laramie, via U S 30 and Vedauwoo road. Large developed area with many picnic units, two community grates, well water. Unusual and interesting granite rock formations, excellent scenery for photographs, rock climbing.

7. *Libby Creek picnic ground.* Thirty-two miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 130. Large developed area, community grate, water from wells. Fishing in Libby Creek, trailer parking on North Fork road.

8. *North Fork campground.* Thirty-three miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 130 and North Fork road. Small but well improved area on banks of North Fork of Little Laramie River. Water from well, good fishing. Quiet, restful spot.

9. *Nash Fork picnic ground.* Thirty-seven miles west of Laramie, along State Highway 130. On bank of Nash Fork Creek, near University of Wyoming summer science camp and Snowy Range natural area. Small attractive picnic and family group area, water from well.

10. *Upper Nash Fork campground.* Thirty-eight and one-half miles west of Laramie on State Highway 130. Near Snowy Range natural area. Large developed area, individual camping units and trailer camping, water from spring. Interesting virgin Engelmann spruce and native flora. Good fishing nearby.

F—382455

LEFT.—*A view of three of the 100 fishing lakes on the Medicine Bow. Lake Marie in the foreground, Mirror Lake to the right of Lake Marie, and a portion of Lookout Lake, partially covered with ice and snow, may be seen in the basin above and to the left of Lake Marie. The massive Snowy Range and Medicine Bow Peak (12,005 feet) provide the background.*

11. *Brooklyn Lake picnic ground.* Forty miles west of Laramie via State Highway 130 and Brooklyn Lake road. Large developed picnic area near shores of Brooklyn Lake. Water from wells, excellent scenery, interesting flora, many alpine flowers in season.

12. *Lewis Lake campground.* Forty-three miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 130 and Lewis Lake road. Elevation 10,500 feet. Small developed camping area, on shores of Lewis and Class Lakes. Not accessible for trailers. Water from spring, good scenery, interesting geological formation. Near many good fishing lakes, at foot of trail to Medicine Bow Peak.

13. *Mirror Lake campground.* Forty-four miles west of Laramie, on State Highway 130. On shores of Mirror Lake, small, well-improved. Superb mountain scenery, fishing, mountain climbing, unusual geological formation.

14. *Lake Marie picnic ground.* Forty-four and one-half miles west of Laramaie, via State Highway 130. Near shores of Lake Marie, small, well-improved. Spring water, excellent scenery, fishing, mountain climbing. Interesting flora, geology, alpine flowers. Perpetual snow nearby, late spring skiing.

15. *Silver Lake campground.* Forty-seven miles west of Laramie, 30 miles southeast of Saratoga, via State Highway 130. Large improved area, suitable for large or small groups, overlooking Silver Lake. One of the outstanding beauty spots of the Medicine Bow. Spring water, excellent fishing.

16. *South Twin Lakes campground.* Turn right 48½ miles west of Laramie, or left 28 miles southeast of Saratoga off State Highway 130. One and one-half miles poor road to campground. Small area on south shores of South Twin Lake. Good fishing.

17. *North Twin Lakes campground.* Same route as for South Twin Lake but one-half mile beyond. Small attractive site, but difficult road. Located at end of road and at beginning of trails leading to many fishing lakes in Snowy Range region to north. Excellent fishing.

18. *South Brush Creek picnic ground.* Sixty miles west of Laramie, 20 miles southeast of Saratoga, via State Highway 130 and 1 mile of service road to area. On Brush Creek. Large number of individual units and community grates, water from well, good fishing.

19. *Bow River campground.* Thirteen miles south of Elk Mountain, via narrow, slow road. Large, quiet, secluded, partially developed area on banks of Bow River. Excellent fishing.

20. *Sand Lake campground.* Fourteen miles southwest of Arlington, via poor road, unfit for trailers. Partially developed area. Lake and stream fishing, excellent views, mountain climbing, hiking, and good photographic possibilities.

21. *Lower Woods Creek picnic ground.* Thirty-two miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230. Small area, water from well.

22. *Upper Woods Creek picnic ground.* Thirty-four miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230. Attractive location in lodgepole pine timber, large area each side of road, well and spring water.

23. *Evans Creek picnic ground.* Thirty-nine miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230 and Foxpark road. Small, attractive area.

24. *Fence Creek picnic ground.* Twenty-nine miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230 and Woods Landing road. Small, attractive area.

25. *Boswell Creek picnic ground.* Forty-five miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 230 and Boswell road. Restful spot in pines on small stream, near good fishing, water from well.

26. *West Beaver or Pelton Creek campground.* Fifty-three miles west of Laramie, via State Highway 230, 44½ miles and westerly rest of distance over fair auto road. Small area at forks Douglas and Pelton Creek, good fishing.

27. *Holmes campground.* Fifty miles southwest of Laramie, via State Highway 130. County road to Albany and French Creek road via Keystone. Forty miles east of Encampment, via French Creek road. Large area in big trees, excellent spring water.

28. *French Creek picnic ground.* Sixty-five miles southwest of Laramie, via same route given for No. 27. 15 miles east of Encampment, via State Highway 230 and French Creek road. Attractive, small area, excellent fishing, well water.

29. *Bottle Creek campground.* Seven miles west of Encampment, to south of Encampment-Slater road. Large area in aspen and pine trees, spring water.

30. *Haskins Creek picnic ground.* Fourteen miles west of Encampment, 25 miles northeast of Slater, via Encampment-Slater road. Small, attractive site, good fishing.

31. *Lost Creek picnic ground.* Sixteen miles west of Encampment, 23 miles northeast of Slater, via Encampment-Slater road. Small picnicking and camping area partially developed, spring water, excellent fishing.

32. *Big Sandstone picnic ground.* Forty miles west of Encampment, approximately 55 miles south of Rawlins. Small, partially developed area, fair fishing.

GPO 16—23575

PREVENT FOREST FIRES — IT PAYS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
EARLE H. CLAPP, ACTING CHIEF
T.W. NORCROSS, CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST
WYOMING
1941

Scale in Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

1- Canyon Picnic Ground
2- Happy Jack Picnic Ground
3- Wallis Picnic Ground
4- Blair Picnic Ground
5- Summit Comfort Station
6- Vedauwoo Picnic Ground
7- Libby Creek Picnic Ground
8- North Fork Camp Ground
9- Nash Fork Picnic Ground
10- Upper Nash Fork Camp Ground
11- Brooklyn Lake Picnic Ground
12- Lewis Lake Camp Ground
13- Mirror Lake Camp Ground
14- Lake Marie Picnic Ground
15- Silver Lake Camp Ground
16- South Twin Lakes Camp Ground
17- North Twin Lakes Camp Ground
18- South Brush Creek Picnic Ground
19- Bow River Camp Ground
20- Sand Lake Camp Ground

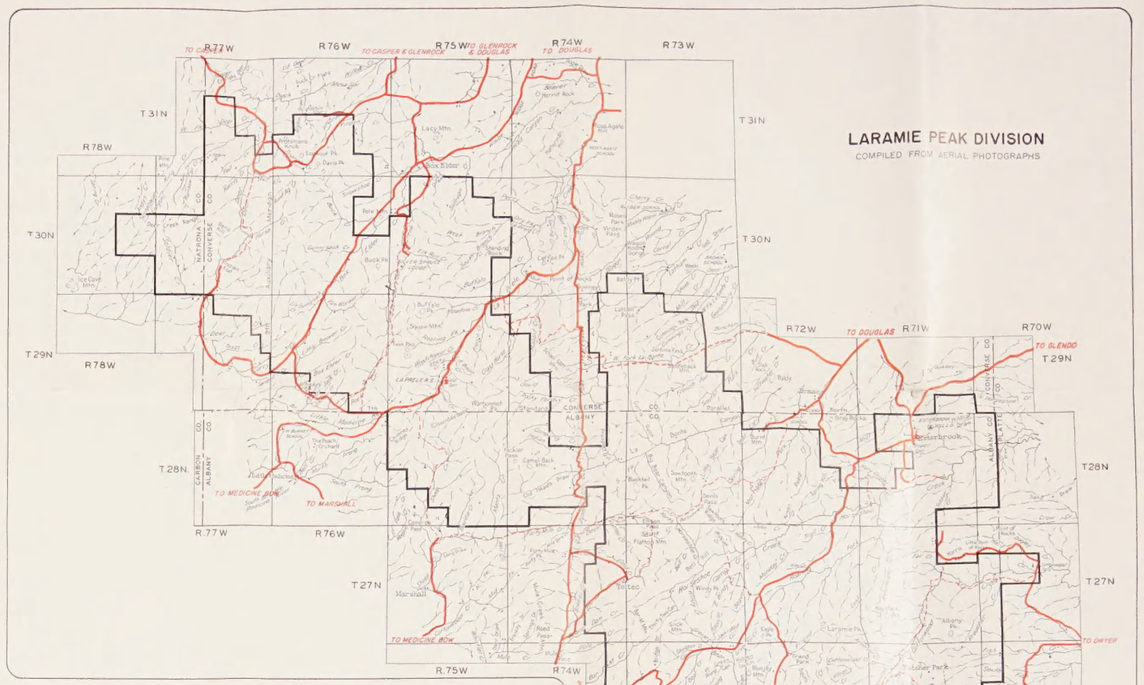
LEGEND

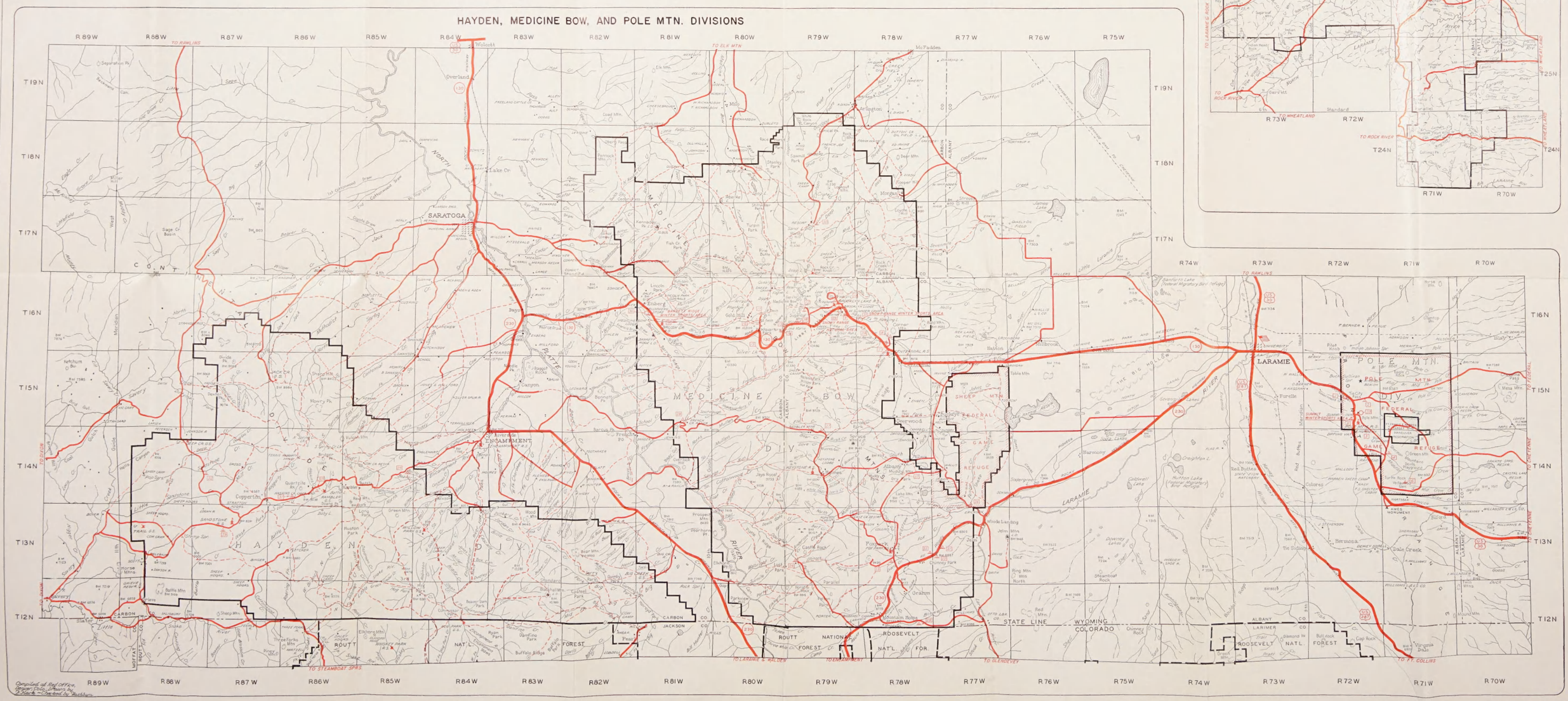
- Main Motor Highway
- Other Motor Roads
- Trail
- National Forest Boundary*
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- District Ranger Station
- Guard or Ranger Station not permanently occupied
- Supervisor's Headquarters
  (Report Forest Fires at any of these stations)
- House, Cabin, or other Building
- Railroad
- Camp or Picnic Ground
- Sawmill
- Schoolhouse
- Permanent Lookout Station
- Commercial or Municipal Field
- Federal Game Refuge Boundary
- State Highway Numbers
- U.S. Highway Numbers

21- Lower Woods Creek Picnic Ground
22- Upper Woods Creek Picnic Ground
23- Evans Creek Picnic Ground
24- Fence Creek Picnic Ground
25- Boswell Creek Picnic Ground
26- West Beaver or Pelton Creek Camp Ground
27- Holmes Camp Ground
28- French Creek Picnic Ground
29- Bottle Creek Camp Ground
30- Haskins Creek Picnic Ground
31- Lost Creek Picnic Ground
32- Big Sandstone Picnic Ground
33- Summit Winter Sports Area
34- Libby Creek Ski Area
35- Snowy Range Winter Sports Area
36- Barrett Ridge Winter Sports Area
37- Dry Park Observation Point
38- Libby Flats Observation Point
39- Bottle Observation Point
40- Snowy Range Natural Area

THE NAMES AND NUMBERS OF RECREATIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST ARE LETTERED ABOVE
For their locations refer to the corresponding numbers thus- 23 on the map.
For their descriptions refer to the back of the map.

*Area within this boundary is approximately 75% National Forest Land.





PUT OUT YOUR CAMP FIRE